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GENEALOGY

OF A PART OF THE

THIRD BRANCH

OF THE

Schermerhorn Family

IN THE

UNITED STATES

COMPILED BY

LOUIS Y. SCHERMERHORN, C.E.

MEMBER OF THE HOLLAND SOCIETY OF NEW YORK
MEMBER OF THE NETHERLANDS SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA

"Eindelijk wordt een Spruit een Boom"

Printed for Private Circulation

BY J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY, PHILADELPHIA

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TO

MY FATHER AND MOTHER

Who, through their inherited sterling qualities of heart and mind, gave to their children the richest of earthly gifts ; and who, through life-long devotion, love, and Christian virtues, taught their sons and daughters those lessons which would best fit them for the duties of life, these pages are dedicated, in loving and grateful remembrance by their

SON

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

January 30, 1903



Origin of the Family Name of Schermerhorn

With a Brief Account of what is known of the Early Ancestor
of the Family in the United States

ABOUT fifteen miles north of Amsterdam, Holland, near the northwest corner of the former site of a lake, is the village of Schermerhorn. Upon a map dated 1604 this lake is indicated as De Scher Mer; about two hundred and fifty years ago the lake was drained, and its site is now occupied by highly cultivated farms. A point of land jutting into the lake, near the former water connection between De Scher Mer and De Beenster, is marked, upon the map referred to, as De Hooren, and upon this land stands the present village of Schermerhorn.

The old Saxon word Skir became changed to Seher in the Middle Dutch period of the language, and means clear, pure, bright.¹ The designation Seher Mer was probably given to the lake from the clearness, purity, or brightness of its waters. The word Meer, or Mer, means lake, and the word Hooren a point, hook, or cape of land. The name Seher-Mer-Horn is simply a compound of these three words, and, like the majority of Holland family names, is of geographical origin. In the early Dutch colonial records the name appears as Schermerhooren, and was so written by the first gen-

¹ The English word Sheer, meaning clear, pure, bright, was derived from the Saxon root Skir. See Century Dictionary, 1893 edition, vol. vii, p. 5562.

eration in this country. The proper pronunciation of the name is Scare-Mer-Horn. The family still exists in Holland, and its members bear to-day the baptismal names so common in the early generations in America.

The first emigrant bearing this name from Holland—and, so far as known, the only one—was Jacob Janse¹ Schermerhooren, who left the Fatherland on the ship “Rensselaerwyck,” on October 1, 1636, and came to Beverwycke (Albany). On the ship’s list of colonists he is designated as “Jacob Janse van Amsterdam, age 14 years;”² he was therefore born in the year 1622. In the early records of the Colony he is sometimes referred to as Jacob Janse van Schermerhooren. In a State document of Holland published at The Hague in 1650,³ relating to Governor Stuyvesant’s conduct in the affairs of the Colony, Schermerhooren is referred to as “Jacob Janse van Schermerhooren, formerly a citizen of Waterland, Holland.” This locality included the village of Schermerhorn, and the areas formerly covered by De Seher Mer, De Wur Mer, De Pur Mer, and De Beemster.

The colonial records state that in 1648 Jacob Reynties (Reyntsen, Reyntgen) obtained from the West India Company’s agent at New Amsterdam (New York) arms and ammunition, which were sent to Schermerhooren at Fort Orange (Albany), who in turn sold them to the Indians. This traffic being illicit, in the opinion of Governor Stuyvesant, unless carried on by himself,⁴ Reynties and Schermerhooren were seized on May 26, 1648, and, with their goods, books, and papers, carried prisoners to New Amsterdam. On July 9, 1648, they were sentenced by Stuyvesant to banishment from the Colony

¹ Sometimes otherwise spelled Jan, Jans, Jansen, and Janssen.

² New York Historical Society, list of emigrants from Holland in the year 1636.

³ *Vertoogh van Nieu Nederland*, by A. Van der Donk: Hague, 1650, pp. 86 and 118.

⁴ Hist. N. Y. Doc. Col., vol. i. p. 501.

for five years, with the confiscation of all their property, which it is stated was considerable. This sentence was, in the opinion of the "Nine Men" and others, undeserved, and through their interposition it was revoked on August 1, 1648.¹ The property of Schermerhooren had been confiscated between the sentence and its revocation, and so remained. These proceedings of Stuyvesant subsequently formed part of the complaint of maladministration made against him by the Colony to the States-General in Holland.

Jacob Janse Schermerhooren was commissary to the General Privileged West India Company, and was also one of a court of three commissaries (magistrates) at Beverwycke and Fort Orange (Albany), in 1652, 1654, 1656, 1657, 1664, 1666, 1674, and 1675.² The records of this court also show that in 1654 he visited Amsterdam, where his father, Jan Schermerhooren, was then living.³ He again visited his native land in 1668, and there loaded the ship "King Charles" with goods for the Colony. The ship was prohibited from sailing to New York, and on December 11, 1668, Schermerhooren petitioned King Charles II. for his permission to depart with his ship from the Trexel, "where it hath lain many days ready to sail, and now lies there at great hazard on account of the season of the year." The permission was subsequently granted by the orders of the King, through the Duke of York, Lord High Admiral of England.⁴

¹ Vertoogh van Nieu Nederland, pp. 86, 118, 119; Coll. N. Y. Hist. Soc., second series, vol. ii. pp. 290, 311, 312, 334, 335; Hist. N. Y. Doc. Col., vol. i. pp. 312, 337, 345, 428, 501; O'Callaghan's History of New Netherlands, vol. i. p. 62; Albany Records, vol. vii. p. 240; vol. viii. p. 60; Holland Doc., vol. iv. pp. 238, 243; Calendar N. Y. Hist. MS., Dutch, 1630-1664, vol. iv. pp. 286, 387, 388, 392, 394, 402.

² Col. Hist. of Albany, Munsell, vol. iv. pp. 225 *et seq.*

³ *Ibid.*, p. 225.

⁴ Doc. Col. Hist. N. Y., vol. iii. pp. 178, 179.

The name of Jacob Janse Schermerhooren is recorded as the twelfth male member of the Reformed Dutch Church of Beverwycke, organized in 1642 by Domine Johannes Megapolensis; and as a member of the Consistory he audited the deacon's accounts generally between 1665 and 1686.

About 1650 Schermerhooren married Jannetie S. Van Voorhoudt, and at least nine children, five sons and four daughters, were the result of the union. In his will, dated May 20, 1688, recorded at Albany, New York, he names his children in the order given in the following genealogical table, and refers to the last four as then in their minority.

He was a trader with the Indians, and the owner of quite large estates. He lived in Albany until 1686, when he removed to Schenectady, where he died in 1688. Prior to 1676 his house and gardens were on the east side of North Pearl Street, Albany, beginning sixty feet south of Maiden Lane; after 1676 he lived on the north side of State Street, just east of Chapel Street. His wife received the income from his estate until her death in 1700, when the estate, amounting to 56,882 guilders, was equally divided among the nine children; it included houses and lands at Schenectady, Albany, and Schodack, and moneys in Holland.

Jacob Janse Schermerhooren was a man of indomitable energy and will, combined with marked intelligence and executive ability; the former is attested by the early age at which he left his native land, by his opposition to Governor Stuyvesant, and his final business success in the Colony; and the latter by the stations of honor and trust which he was called by his fellow-colonists to occupy while he was yet a young man.



Schermerhorn

THIS coat of arms of the Schermerhorn family was obtained by Captain Joseph Marschalk, in 1800, from a painted window of the church in the village of Schermerhorn, Holland. The device upon the seal of the village is a mole. The following description of the above coat of arms is contained in "Armorial Général," par J. B. Rietsap, 1887: "Schermerhorn: D'argent (ou d'azur) à un chêne au naturel, posé sur un tertre de sinople, et une taupe de sable au pied de l'arbre. Casque couronné: Cimier, le chêne: Devise, Industria semper crescam."

1. JACOB JANSE SCHERMERHOOREN married Jannetie S. Van Voorhondt. Issue:

2. REYER J., born 1652; married Ariantje Arentse Bratt.
3. SYMON J., born 1658; married Willemispie Vele.
- 4. HELENA, born 1660; married Myndert H. Van der Boguart.
- 5. JACOB J., born 1662; married Gerritje H. Van Buren.
6. MACHTELT, born 1664; married Johannes M. Beeckman.
7. CORNELIS J., born 1668; married Marritje H. Van Buren.
8. JANNETIE, born 1670; married Casper Springsteen.
9. NEELTJE, born 1674; married Barent Ten Eyck.
10. LUCAS J., born 1676; married Elizabeth Damen.

The birth dates as given above are somewhat conjectural, but from collateral evidence they are believed to be nearly correct. In the will

of Jacob Janse Schermerhooren, dated May 20, 1688, the children are named in the above order, and the last four are referred to as then (1688) being in their minority.

Jannetie S. Van Voorhoudt, born in Holland about 1632, was the daughter of Cornelis Segerse Van Voorhoudt and Bregje Jacobson, who came from Holland to Beverwycke (Albany) in 1642. Jannetie Schermerhooren died at Schenectady, New York, in 1700.

5. JACOB JACOBSE SCHERMERHOORN married Gerritie Hendrickse Van Buren. Issue:

- ✧ 11. CATALYNTJE, baptized November 18, 1683: married Abraham Van Valkenburg. ✧
12. JACOB, JR., baptized December 27, 1685: married Antie Van Vechten.
13. HENDRICK, baptized October 16, 1687: married Elsie Jans Albertse Bratt.
14. CORNELIS, baptized September 22, 1689: married Margarita Jans Albertse Bratt.
15. MACHTELT, baptized January 3, 1692.
16. JANNETIE, baptized May 6, 1694.
17. ELIZABETH, baptized August 28, 1698: married Roeleff Jansen.
18. JOHANNES J., baptized July 21, 1700: married Engeltie Gardenier.
19. REYER, baptized February 21, 1702: married Geertie Ten Eyck.

Jacob Jacobse Schermerhoorn, born about 1662, was master of the sloop "Star" from 1681 to 1684, which sailed between Albany and New York; his brother Cornelis subsequently sailed the same vessel. In 1682 he married Gerritie Hendrickse, daughter of Hendrick Cornelis Van Buren and Elizabeth —: or granddaughter of Cornelis Maas Van Buren and Catalyntje Martense De Weever, who came from Guilderland, Holland, in 1631. The brothers Jacob and Cornelis (see Nos. 5 and 7) married sisters.

In the will of Jacob Janse Schermerhooren, dated May 20, 1688, it is stated: "I do freely remitt & discharge my sonne Jacob Scher-

merhoorn that lives upon my farm at Schotak of ye rent which he is owing for ye same and which will be due to ye day of my decease not willing that my executrix or admx shall any wise molest him the said Jacob Schermerhoorn Jr or his heirs for ye same." In the subsequent division of the property, in 1700, Jacob Jacobse Schermerhoorn came into possession of the property referred to, and his descendants retained the original farm until it was sold, in 1836, by Barent C. Schermerhorn, in the sixth generation.

12. JACOB SCHERMERHOORN, JR., married, June 23, 1714, Antie Van Vechten. Issue:

20. JACOB J., baptized July 10, 1715; married Catalyntje Van Buren.
21. MARIA, baptized March 6, 1717; died in infancy.
22. CORNELIS J., baptized January 1, 1719; married Maria Winne.
23. REYER J., baptized April 9, 1721.
24. MARIA, baptized June 30, 1723.
25. GERRETIE, baptized October 11, 1724; married Adam Danilse Winne.
26. HENDRICK J., baptized September 25, 1726; married Cornelia Lansing.
27. JANNETIE, baptized February 25, 1728; married Johannes Jansen.
28. CATHELYNTJE, baptized March 1, 1730; married Barent Van Buren.
29. LUCAS J., baptized October 15, 1732; married Wyntje Fitzgerald.
30. JOHANNES J., baptized August 4, 1734.
31. PHILIP J., baptized April 17, 1737.

Antie Van Vechten was baptized December 20, 1692, and was the daughter of Cornelis Teunise Van Vechten and Maria Lucase, and granddaughter of Teunis Van Vechten.

22. CORNELIS JACOB SCHERMERHORN married, October 22, 1742, Maria Winne. Issue:

32. JACOB C., born May 25, 1743; married (1) Gerritje Schermerhorn; (2) Cornelia Gardenier; (3) Sarah Van der Poel.

- 33. DANIEL C., baptized March 23, 1745: married Maria Van der Poel.
- 34. JOHN W., baptized July 4, 1747: married (1) Cathalyntje Van Valkenburgh; (2) Abigail Everett.
- 35. PHILIP C., baptized June 28, 1750: married Dorothy Miller.
- 36. DIRKIE, baptized June 14, 1752.

Cornelis J. Schermerhorn, born 1719, died prior to 1762, for it is known that his eldest son, Jacob, at his marriage gave a home to his mother, who was then a widow.

Maria Winne, baptized December 9, 1722, was the daughter of Pieter Danilse Winne and Rachel Van Alen, the granddaughter of Daniel Winne and Dirckje Van Nes, and great-granddaughter of Pieter Winne and Tannatje Adams. The former was born in Ghent, Flanders, and the latter in Leeuwaerden, Vrieslandt. A portrait of Maria Winne and her sister is in the possession of the Van Alen family at Schodack Landing, New York.

32. JACOB CORNELIS SCHERMERHORN married (1), March 29, 1762, Gerritje Schermerhorn; (2), February 15, 1783, Cornelia Gardenier; (3), April 5, 1794, Sarah Van der Poel. Issue:

- 37. CORNELIUS I. (J.), born August 15, 1764: married (1) Elizabeth Montden (Montagne); (2) Cathlina Schermerhorn.
- 38. MARYTJE, baptized December 17, 1769: died in infancy.
- 39. JOHN I. (J.), born September 5, 1772: married Cynthia Van Valkenberg.
- 40. SAMUEL, baptized October 6, 1776.
- 41. MARYTJE, baptized August 16, 1778: married Daniel Van Buren.
- 42. ENGELTJE, baptized February 5, 1781.
- 43. CATHALYNA, baptized January 20, 1782: died in childhood.
- 44. GERRITJE, baptized January 11, 1784: married Joseph G. Seabring.
- 45. BARENT I. (J.), baptized April 3, 1786: married Lucretia Barheit.
- 46. HANNAH, baptized November 18, 1788: married Kobus B. Van der Poel.

Jacob C. Schermerhorn lived at Schodack Landing, New York, the home of his ancestors. He was a large land-owner, and was prominently connected with the public affairs of his time. He served in the Revolutionary War, in 1775-76, as first lieutenant in Captain John H. Beekman's company of the Fifth Albany County Regiment, commanded by Colonel Stephen Schuyler; and in 1776-77 as first major of the Second Battalion of the Fourth Albany County Regiment, commanded by Colonel Kilian Van Rensselaer.

Major Schermerhorn was in command of his regiment at the surrender of General Burgoyne at Saratoga, on October 17, 1777. He was a member of the New York State Assembly in 1795, and from 1793 to 1797 was State Commissioner for the County buildings at Troy, New York. He died at Schodack Landing, New York, on May 5, 1822. A portrait, in water-colors, taken in the later part of his life, now exists in our family.

Jacob C. Schermerhorn's first wife, Gerritje Schermerhorn, born May 1, 1742, was the daughter of Johannes J. Schermerhorn and Engeltje Gardenier (see No. 18). She died March 2, 1782, six weeks after the birth of her daughter Cathalya. His second wife, Cornelia Gardenier, was born in 1753; she was the widow of Johannes Vosburgh, and died July 21, 1793. His third wife, Sarah Van der Poel, born July 14, 1754, was the daughter of Johannes Van der Poel and Annatje Staats, and the widow of John A. Van Alstyne; she died March 21, 1817.

37. CORNELIUS L. (J.) SCHERMERHORN married (1), November 19, 1785, Elizabeth Monden (Montagne); (2), November 19, 1815, Catharina Schermerhorn. Issue:

47. MARGARET, born January 19, 1788; married Israel Platt.
48. JACOB, born May 18, 1791; died in infancy.
49. JACOB C., born August 25, 1792; married Rachel Berden.
50. JOHN, born August 25, 1792; died in infancy.

51. GARRITA A., born November 19, 1793; married Isaac Jessup.
52. MARIA, born February 21, 1796; unmarried.
53. SARAH, born July 18, 1797; married (1) Joseph Fryer; (2) Michael Morehouse.
54. JOHN C., born December 3, 1798; married Hannah Springsteen.
55. ANNA, born April 7, 1800; married Lewis Younglove.
56. JOSEPH C., born November 26, 1801; unmarried.
57. BARENT C., born January 28, 1804; married Catharine Witbeck.
58. PETER C., born August 21, 1805; married Sarah S. Ryder.

Cornelius I. (J.) Schermerhorn, born August 15, 1764, lived at Schodack Landing, New York. He was a merchant and a large land- and vessel-owner, several of his vessels being engaged in trade with the East Indies. In 1808, 1809, 1810, 1811, and 1818 he was a member of the New York State Assembly, and during that service he was prominently identified with the plans for the inauguration of the Erie Canal. He was commissioned on March 30, 1803, as major, on March 12, 1810, as lieutenant-colonel, and on April 13, 1812, as colonel of the Forty-third Regiment, Eighth Brigade, Third Division, of the New York Militia, under command of Brigadier-General Jacob A. Fort and Major-General Henry Livingston. Colonel Schermerhorn served on the northern frontier with his regiment during the war of 1812. He died at Schodack Landing, August 25, 1828.

Cornelius I. Schermerhorn's first wife, Elizabeth Monden, was born in 1764. She was a descendant of Heer Johannes La Montagne, vice-director of the West India Company at Fort Orange (Albany) from 1659 to 1664. The family was of Huguenot origin, emigrating from Holland about the middle of the seventeenth century. Among some of the later generations the original name became phonetically changed to Monden, Monton, and Munden. Elizabeth M. Schermerhorn died June 9, 1815. His second wife, Cathlina Schermerhorn, born September 15, 1775, was the daughter of Hendrick J. Scher-

merhorn and Cornelia Lansing (see No. 26), and the widow of Petrus Hardenburg; she died January 23, 1835.

In 1898 the headstones marking the graves of Jacob C. Schermerhorn and family, and also those of Cornelius I. Schermerhorn and family, were removed from their several burial-places and placed in the cemetery at Schodaek Landing.

57. BARENT CORNELIUS SCHERMERHORN married, January 8, 1827, Catharine Witbeck. Issue:

59. ELIZABETH, born December 13, 1827; married Robert M. Pease.

60. CATHARINE A., born October 22, 1829.

61. CHARLES, born June 16, 1832; married Jane Wells.

62. FRANK, born August 29, 1835.

63. LOUIS Y., born November 18, 1840; married Romie Bovie Dods.

64. ARENT V. D., born October 22, 1842; married Adelaide Potter.

Barent C. Schermerhorn was born January 28, 1804, at Schodaek Landing, New York, and upon the death of his father inherited the old homestead of his ancestors. (See Jacob Jacobse Schermerhoorn.) He was commissioned as major on August 11, 1831, as lieutenant-colonel on June 26, 1834, and as colonel on September 9, 1835, of the Forty-third Regiment, Eighth Brigade, Ninth Division, of the New York State Militia, under Brigadier-General Henry I. Genêt. This regiment had successively been commanded by Colonel Schermerhorn's grandfather in 1777, and by his father in 1812. In 1838 he removed to Greenwich, New York, and in 1863 to Troy, New York, where he died March 10, 1872. Barent C. Schermerhorn was always identified with the advancement of the best interests of the community in which he lived, and for forty years he was a prominent member of the Dutch Reformed Church and its synods. His life was that of a Christian gentleman.

His wife, Catharine Witbeck, born May 15, 1810, was the daughter of John A. Witbeck and Catharine Van Dyck, and therefore a lineal



descendant of Jan Thomase Van Witbeck, who came from Witbeck, Holstein, in 1638, and Heer Hendrick Van Dyck, who came from Utrecht in 1645. Catharine W. Schermerhorn died at Lansingburgh, New York, October 31, 1898.

Obituary

“The funeral of Mrs. Catharine W. Schermerhorn was held on November 3 [1898], at the home of the family, 286 Third Avenue, Lansingburgh. Mrs. Schermerhorn died October 31, having reached the advanced age of eighty-eight years, and to the day of her death preserved most of the powers and energies of the body, and all the graces of heart and mind which had so eminently distinguished her life. Throughout a long and useful life she splendidly exemplified the ideal wife and mother. Gentle by nature, and further sanctified by an unquestioning faith in a glorious future, she passed away as she had lived, fully reposing in the faith of a lifetime. Gentleness and grace of manner combined with an intense mother-love endeared her most strongly to her children. To them she bequeathed, through a model life, the priceless inheritance of a pure, consistent, and loving example of all that is best in human life, and a lasting memory, endeared by a world of cherished associations. To have so lived that words cannot express the present sense of loss incurred by those she has lived for is the most glowing eulogy which can be paid to her blessed memory, and such a tribute her children lovingly yield.”

63. LOUIS YOUNGLOVE SCHERMERHORN married, December 4, 1866, Romie B. Dods. Issue:

65. HOLDEN B., born July 18, 1868: married Sarah Yeates Whelen.

66. RENA, born February 21, 1870: married Arthur B. Breese, M.D.

67. LOUIS W., born November 16, 1871: died September 20, 1876.

68. ALFRED R., born February 8, 1876; married M. Lillian Messig.

Louis V. Schermerhorn was born at Greenwich, New York. He studied civil engineering at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 1860-63, and graduated, with the degree of C.E., from Union College, New York, in 1864; engaged on railroad survey and construction, in New York and Ohio, 1864-66; division engineer on Brooklyn Park, New York, 1866-69; chief engineer of the Riverside Improvement Company, Illinois, 1869-73; chief engineer Chicago and Great Western Railroad, 1873-74; United States Assistant Engineer on works of river and harbor improvement, in Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, New York, Vermont, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware, 1874-91; member of United States Engineer Commission for Improvement of Wilmington Harbor, Delaware, 1891; member of Engineer Commission for Protection of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, against Floods, 1895; member of Commission for Survey of Canal Route between Philadelphia and New York, 1894; president of the American Dredging Company, 1891-; president of the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia, 1898; director of the Philadelphia Board of Trade, 1893-; director of the Philadelphia Maritime Exchange, 1892-.

Ronie Bovie Dods, born in Provincetown, Massachusetts, April 5, 1840, was the daughter of Dr. John Bovie Dods, of Boston, Massachusetts, and Julia Holden, of Norfolk, Virginia. The family name was Bovie, but it was changed to Dods during the early life of Dr. John Bovie. The family was of Huguenot origin, from Pays de Vaud, Switzerland, emigrating from Holland, in the persons of "Jerome Bovie, wife, and five children," to New Amsterdam (New York), in 1663. The name was originally Beaufils, but became phonetically changed to Beauvic and Bovie.

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